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Herbalist (Part 2)

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Transcription # 25

Notes: This is the second story in the order in which he presented them.

The herbalist (tc rev)

nyàndònróm

[do-person-ncm-medicine]

by Amara Camara

màke cèŋ dicéy, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun mekən kol.

mòké-cèŋ di-cɛ ɛɛ áwà à pɛŋkən nùn m̀̀nkún kól
ord-two ncm-def uh okay 1sg reach.boundary?? now stop there

The second one, uh- okay, I have reached a stopping point, let's stop there.

tc: may be related to pèn 'boundary'

mə yema si fələn

mò yèmá sǐ fól-ùn

you want we stop-mid

Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fələn nuŋ, agbendi pərən.

ń-ń sǐ fólùn nùn à gbén-dǐ p̀̀rən
interj 1pl stop now 1sg finish-perf forget

Yes, let's stop now, I've completely forgotten!

p. 54

awa, yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketem.

áwà yóm ù-nyǐ pòm wò kácè
alright grandfather ncm-1pl some 3sg formerly

One of our grandfathers

lò lél ǐ-wò kètèm

pro name ncm-3sg Ketem

whose name was Ketem,

wonɛɛ nróm yo maten ko tífólɔ nma cɛŋ tumo;

wòné ñ-róm yo màtén kò ǐ-f̀̀lò ñ-mà cè-én tún yò
dem ncm-cure prt? hide to ncm-world emph-pro aux-neg find rel

The man's cures were hidden to the world. There was no medicine that he could not find.

mba, fə nɔ wu ye.

mbà fó nó-wù-yé

all right must peron-dead-emph

Okay, it must be (except when it was) a dead person.

boŋ, kəŋɔ wole wunɔ rəm, pé - ɲanɔnrəm, wunɔ

bòn k̀̀nò wò lé wú-nò-róm pé
alright but 3sg cop dead-people-medicine oops!

nyà-nò-ń-róm wú-nò

do-person-ncm-medicine dead-person
Good, but he was a doctor-for-dead-people, oops! He was a native doctor.

kɔnɔ pɛ wɔ koe dɛdɛ
kɔnɔ pɛ wɔ kwɛ dɛ-ó-dɛ
but pro 3sg grab land-dist-redup
People would summon him from everywhere

wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ na nrɔm.
wɔlɔ kà kó-n àlì kò nyà ñ-róm
3sg past go-mid for go make ncm-medicine
to go make medicine.

kɛrɛ nrɔm [p.55] uŋ wɔ ɛɛ gbànsàŋ ŋɔ la.
kɛrɛ ñ-róm ñ-wɔ ɛɛ gbànsàŋ ŋɔ là
but ncm-medicine ncm-3sg cop magic pro pro
But his cures were magical.

nrɔmuŋ wɔ ɛɛn tibul ta, ta bi.
ñ-róm ñ-wɔ ɛɛn ti-bul tà tà bĩ
ncm-medicine ncm-3sg song ncm-one foc pro have
His cures it was one song they had (he accompanied application with singing).

kɛnɛ mɔrɔlanɣi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔy.
kɛnɛ mɔrɔlanɣi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔlɔ
but rubbings 3sg also pro
But he also had verses.

nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.
ñ-róm ñ-wɔ wɔ gbó kò àlì kò dɛrɛk-nò
ncm-medicine ncm-3sg 3sg just go for go cure-person
He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔrɔlanɣi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ [...].
mɔrɔlanɣi wɔ gbɛt ŋɔ kò [...]
verses 3sg only pro go [...]
Only his salves [missing part].

bɔlɔ ɔ puŋ tun koyŋ ɛɛ. ɔ semiye mɔ.
bɔlɔ ù púŋ tún kòn ɛɛ ù sém-ĩ-yé mɔ
and 3sg rub bunch frond def 3sg stand-cs-stat 2sg
And he rubs a bunch of palm fronds. He makes you stand,

xa nak nɔɛ wɔ la, bɔlɔ n hine,
xa ná-k-nò ɛɛ wɔ là bɔlɔ ñ hĩn-yé
if? sick-person def 3sg pro and 2sg lie.down-stat
if it is the sick person is it, and you are lying down,

tc: xa?

xa ceŋ bɔ hini, xa n cem bɔ semi,
nà cè-én bɔ hin-i nà ò cè-én bɔ sem-ĩ
with aux-neg can lie.down-cs with 2sg aux-neg can stand-cs
If you are not able to lie down, if you are not able to stand,

bɔlɔ n hine,
bɔlɔ ò hín-yé
and 2sg lie.down-stat
then you are lying down,

xa n cem bɔ semi bɔlɔ n cala,
nà ò cè-én bɔ sèm-ĩ bɔlɔ ò cál-à
with 2sg aux-neg can stand-cs and 2sg sit-ev
if you cannot stand then you sit down.

ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pepe ce ayi.
ù hùn ù púnt mà kò pèpè cé àyĩ
3sg come 3sg squish pro to calabash def inside
He then squishes it inside (against the sides of) the calabash.

ĩ tɔpe wɔm mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ.
ĩ cáp-yé wɔ-n mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ
pro start-stat 3sg-emph verses 3sg
He then begins rubbing the medication.

ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyɔŋtomu tabayee. kɔye
[p.56] kɔte bɔre, kɔye, kɔŋpoyna kɔŋ-kaw zodoy zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrne kɔtene kubu wo
roku sororoo. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe ye, ɔya nbe nbe. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe
nbe,
(no translation)

anya mi, ɔna mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
à-nyá à-mĩ à-nyá à-mĩ búléŋ, ɔya nbe nbe,
ncm-peoplen ncm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all ?
- my people, my people, everybody - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
-aben ami buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
a-ben à-mĩ búléŋ, nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
ncm-old ncm-1sg all ?
my elders all, - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya
kò dipalacok buleŋ nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya
ncm Palatugu all
Palatugu, everybody-

-apa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, hali poto nɔce wɔ la nbe nbe,
a-na a-mi buleŋ hálí pòtònò cé wò là
ncm-friend ncm-my all for white.man def pro pro
-my people, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, this is to the White person, nbe nbe,

hali amara wɔ la nbe nbe, hali mɔmɔ wɔ la nbe nbe,
hálí àmárà wò là nbe nbe, hálí mòmò wò là nbe nbe,
for Amara 3sg pro ? for Momo
this is to Amara: nbe nbe, this is to Momo: nbe nbe,

hali mari wɔ la nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, ɔya nbe nbe.
this is to Mari: nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, ɔya nbe nbe.

awa, si mɛknəŋ kol. ndɔye. lɔŋta.
awa, šī mɛkən kól. lò yè. lɔnta.
okay, 1pl stop there, pro prt *lòntà*
Let's us stop here. That's it. (The final word is a Temne word usually used at the
beginning of a story.)

áwà, màmó, ɲóy kèlèŋ.
áwà màmó ɲó-ĩ kèlèŋ.
okay thanks pro-ĩ good
All right, thank you. It's good.

The herbalist/native doctor (toneless version, mp)

panorom

by Amara Camara

moke cəŋ dicey, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun məkən kol.
moke cəŋ di-cɛ ɛɛ awa pɛŋkən nun məkən kol
afterwards/followingtwo/second ncm-def uh alright ? ? stop there
Afterwards comes the second, eh... Let me stop here.

mə yema si fələn?
mə yema si fələn
you want westop
Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fələn nuŋ, agbendi pərən.
aŋ si fələn nuŋ a gben-di pərən
exclamation westop ? I finish-perf forget
Yes, let's stop, I've forgotten!

(Story)

awa, yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketəm.
awa yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketəm
alright grandfather our some 3sg in the past be name hisKetəm
There was one of our great grand-fathers whose name was Ketəm.

wonɛɛ nrəm yo maten ko tifələ nma cəŋ tumo;
wonɛɛ n-rəm yo maten ko ti-fələ n ma cɛ-ŋ tum-o
that one ncm-medicine prthide in/at/on ncm-world ? it aux-neg ?-?
There was no cure in the world that this man couldn't find.

nba, fə nɔ wu ye.
nba fə nɔ wu ye
alright except person dead ?
Except for a dead person.

boŋ, kəŋ wole wuno rəm, pé - panorom, wuno
boŋ kəŋ wə lɛ wunorəm pé panorom wuno
alright but 3sg be doctor for dead people oops!¹ native doctor dead-person
Alright, but he was a doctor for dead people, oops, he was a native doctor (for dead people?)

kəŋ pɛ wə koe dede wə lə ka kən ali kə ɲa nrəm.

¹ The storyteller makes a lapsus linguae

kənɔ pɛ wɔ koe dɛdɛ wɔ lɔ ka kən alikɔpa nrɔm
 but imp 3sg pick everywhere 3sg there ? go to go make medicine
 People would call him from everywhere to go and cure them.

kɛrɛ nrɔmuŋ² wɔ cɛ gbaŋsaŋ ŋɔ la.
 kɛrɛ nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɛ gbaŋsaŋ ŋɔ la
 but medicine hisaux ? it be?³
 But his cures were not just like that.⁴

nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɔn tibul ta, ta bi.
 nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɔn ti-bul ta bi
 medicines hissong ncm-one nc.pro have
 His cures had one song.

kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔy.
 kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔ
 but verse? hisalso it loc
 But there were also verses.⁵

nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.
 nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔ
 medicines his3sg just go to to rub person
 He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ [missing part].
 mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ []
 verses hisonly it go []
 and just recited his verses [missing part].

bɔlɔ ɛ puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ. ɛ sɛmiyɛ mɔ.
 bɔlɔ ɛ puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ ɛ sɛmi-yɛ mɔ
 and 3sg pound?/chop/break looked for fruntsdef 3sg stand-? 2sg
 And looked for and prepared dried palm frunts. He would make you stand,

xa nak nɔcɛ wɔ la, bɔlɔ n hine,
 xa nak nɔ-cɛ wɔ la bɔlɔ n hin-ɛ
 if? sick person-def nc.pro be and 2sg lie (down)-?
 if you are the sick person, and lie down.

xa cɛŋ bɔ hini, xa n cem bɔ sɛmi, bɔlɔ n hine,
 xa cɛ-ŋ bɔ hin-i xa n cɛ-n bɔ sɛm-i bɔlɔ n hin-ɛ

² I'm not sure if this should be transcribed this way. Maybe this [u] is just epenthesis between the noun rɔm and the morpheme ŋ in nrɔm ŋ wɔ

³ This structure appears often. It seems to be formed by a noun class pronoun + la (kɔ la, ŋɔ la, ma la).

⁴ fb: But his medicines were not just like that; He was miraculous in his work.

⁵ fb: But he was also having some words that he recites and rubs on the whole external parts of the sick person.

if? aux-neg can lie down-? if? 2sg aux-neg can stand-? and 2sg lie (down)-?

If you cannot lie, if you cannot stand, and you lie down,

xa n cem bɔ semi bɔlɔ n cala,
xa n ce-n bɔ sem-i bɔlɔ n cal-a
if? 2sg aux-neg can stand-? and 2sg sit (down)-?
if you cannot stand you sit.

ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi.
ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi
he come 3sg put? it/them to calabash def inside
He then put it in the calabash.

i tɔpɛ wɔm mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ.
i tɔp-ɛ wɔm mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ
he start-? now verses his
He starts now his rubbing action and verses⁶,

'ya wo sinanɔdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyonɔtomu tabayee. kɔye kɔtɛ bərə, kɔye, kɔnpoyna
koŋ-kaw zoday zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrne kɔtene kubu woroku sororoo. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe
nbe, woy nbe nbe ye, ɔya nbe nbe. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

(no translation)

-aŋa mi, aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
a-ŋa a-mi a-ŋa a-mi buleŋ
ncm-peoplen cm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all
- my people, my people, everybody - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-aben ami⁷ buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
a-ben a-mi buleŋ
ncm-old ncm-my all
my elders, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya
ko-dipalacok buleŋ
ncm-palatugu all
Palatugu, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya

-aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, hali poto nɔcɛ wɔ la nbe nbe,
a-ŋa a-mi buleŋ hali poto nɔ-cɛ wɔ la
ncm-friend ncm-my all for White ncm-def nc.pro be
-my people, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, this is to the White person, nbe nbe,

hali amara wɔ la nbe nbe, hali mɔmɔ wɔ la nbe nbe,
this is to Amara: nbe nbe, this is to Momo: nbe nbe,

⁶ fb now says “accents”

⁷ The most common form is ‘aben acɛ’; however, we find this expression again in Hamidou’s text.

hali mari wɔ la nɛ nɛ, ɔya nɛ nɛ, woy nɛ nɛ yo, ɔya nɛ nɛ.
this is to Mari: nɛ nɛ, ɔya nɛ nɛ, woy nɛ nɛ yo, ɔya nɛ nɛ.

awa, si mɛk nuɲ kol. ndɔye. lɔŋta.
Let's us stop here. That's it; .

awa, mamɔ, ŋɔy kɛlɛɲ.
All right, thank you. It's good.